

House Bill 1458

By: Representatives Porter of the 143<sup>rd</sup>, Hugley of the 133<sup>rd</sup>, Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, and Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to eliminate the uniform reporting system based on a 4.0 scale that was to be effective on May 1, 2007; to provide that the current uniform reporting system based on a numeric average shall continue in effect; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, is amended by striking Code Section 20-2-157, relating to the uniform reporting system for certain purposes, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"20-2-157.

(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a uniform reporting system to be used as one of the criteria to determine eligibility of students seeking enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section 20-2-161.1 or seeking educational scholarships, grants, or loan assistance administered by the Georgia Student Finance Commission pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this title.

~~(b) Beginning May 1, 2007, each school system and private school shall adopt the reporting system described in this subsection for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the HOPE scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:~~

~~(1) Each school system and private school shall transmit, in a manner and at times prescribed by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, an electronic transcript of courses and course grades for each graduating senior that reflects the complete high school academic record of the student, including scores on any state tests required for graduation, the grading scales used by the school system or private school for the time~~

1 periods referenced by the transcripts, and any other pertinent information as determined  
2 by the Georgia Student Finance Commission. Each grade reported by a school system or  
3 private school to the commission for the purpose of calculating the grade point average  
4 for HOPE scholarship eligibility shall be the actual grade earned by the student, with no  
5 weighting or addition of points by the local school system or private school;

6 (2) ~~The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate a grade point average for~~  
7 ~~the purpose of determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship from these electronic~~  
8 ~~transcripts and shall notify students of their eligibility and high schools as to the~~  
9 ~~eligibility of students;~~

10 (3) ~~For students otherwise qualified and enrolling as freshmen students in eligible public~~  
11 ~~or private postsecondary institutions for the first time on May 1, 2007, or thereafter, the~~  
12 ~~Georgia Student Finance Commission shall calculate grade point averages for~~  
13 ~~determining eligibility for the HOPE scholarship and other scholarships referenced in this~~  
14 ~~Code section as follows:~~

15 (A) ~~For students receiving a college preparatory diploma, each grade for a student in~~  
16 ~~attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign~~  
17 ~~language that would, if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement~~  
18 ~~for the college preparatory curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such~~  
19 ~~that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0,~~  
20 ~~and a grade of 'F' = 0; or~~

21 (B) ~~For students receiving a career/technical diploma, each grade for a student in~~  
22 ~~attempted coursework in English, mathematics, science, and social studies that would,~~  
23 ~~if successfully completed, satisfy a core graduation requirement for the career/technical~~  
24 ~~curriculum shall be equated to a grade on a 4.0 scale, such that a grade of 'A' = 4.0, a~~  
25 ~~grade of 'B' = 3.0, a grade of 'C' = 2.0, a grade of 'D' = 1.0, and a grade of 'F' = 0.~~

26 ~~Grades for coursework that is classified as advanced placement or international~~  
27 ~~baccalaureate shall be weighted by the Georgia Student Finance Commission in~~  
28 ~~calculating the overall grade point averages for students, provided that the weighting of~~  
29 ~~such course grades is uniformly applied to all students in the state taking the specified~~  
30 ~~coursework. The sum of the equated grades shall be divided by the number of course~~  
31 ~~grades, adjusted for term length, to yield a grade point average on a 4.0 scale;~~

32 (4) ~~Qualification for the HOPE scholarship shall be determined from the grade point~~  
33 ~~average calculated as set out in paragraph (3) of this subsection. Beginning May 1, 2007,~~  
34 ~~students with grade point averages equal to or in excess of 3.0 on the 4.0 scale with a~~  
35 ~~college preparatory diploma shall meet achievement standards for the HOPE scholarship;~~  
36 ~~students receiving a career/technical diploma shall meet achievement standards for the~~

1 HOPE scholarship with a grade point average equal to or in excess of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.  
2 This paragraph shall apply regardless of when a student graduated from high school and  
3 regardless of such student's eligibility status prior to May 1, 2007; and

4 ~~(5) Beginning May 1, 2007, only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection~~  
5 ~~shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend~~  
6 ~~colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this~~  
7 ~~title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section~~  
8 ~~20-2-161.1.~~

9 ~~(c)(b)(1)~~ Prior to May 1, 2007, each Each school system shall adopt the following  
10 reporting system for purposes of identifying and qualifying graduating seniors for the  
11 HOPE scholarship program and other programs identified in this Code section:

12 (A) A final grade average of at least an 80 numeric average in their core curriculum  
13 subjects, provided that the student meets the college preparatory curriculum  
14 requirements; or

15 (B) A final grade average of at least an 85 numeric average in their core curriculum  
16 subjects if the student meets the career/technical curriculum requirements.

17 ~~(2) Prior to May 1, 2007, only~~ Only the reporting system as indicated in this subsection  
18 shall be used to determine eligibility for all grants, scholarships, or loans to attend  
19 colleges or universities which are administered pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 3 of this  
20 title and eligibility for enrollment in postsecondary courses pursuant to Code Section  
21 20-2-161.1."

## 22 SECTION 2.

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.